AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are reviewing their decisions pending under Civil Aviation bilateral treaty with Malaysian Government keeping in view the serious assault incidents against Indian IT Professionals in Kualalumpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Kualalumpur's reaction to India's protest in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) In consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs, it has been decided to keep in abeyance the additional traffic rights granted to the designated airlines of Malaysia during the last round of bilateral air services talks between India and Malaysia held on 22-23 January, 2003 for the time being in view of the incidents of assault against the I.T. Professionals in Kualalumpur. Malaysian Airlines has not, so far, filed any plan to utilise the additional traffic rights.

Targeted passenger traffic

4023. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage growth of passenger traffic in IA during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the percentage growth of passenger traffic in AI during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the civil aviation sector set 5 per cent growth target for 2002-2003;

(d) if so, whether the target has been achieved; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not achieving the target, apart from 9/11 attack?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The growth in passenger traffic of Indian Airlines (including Alliance Air) and Air India during the last three years are as under :—

Year	Indian Airlines	Air India
	(Growth percentage)	
2000-2001	-1.4	3.1
2001-2002	-8.3	-5.2
2002-2003	0.6 (Provisional)	-6.2

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Air traffic has declined sharply during the last two years on account of overall depressed market conditions due to various factors.

Participation of Lufthansa Airlines in airport modernisation

4024. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY :
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Lufthansa Airlines has proposed to participate in the modernisation of airports in the metro cities in the countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Not applicable in view of above.

Improvement in ground services of AI

4025. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any step has been taken to improve ground services of Air India ;

(b) whether it is a fact that response from sales offices of Air India is not very prompt or efficient;

(c) in what way Government will ensure that Air India improves its functioning to make it competitive;

(d) whether any plan has been finalised to change the outlook and work culture of Air India's employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. As an ongoing exercise, Air India has provided following facilities to improve its ground services :—

(i) Special Services Unit to facilitate first/executive class passengers, (ii) Tele-check-in facility, (iii) advance seat reservation seat facility; (iv) Kerb side check-in facilities for first/executive class passengers at Mumbai, (v) Maharaja lounge facility, and (vi) Interline through check-in facility.

There is also a plan for a call center to provide 24 hours information to passengers on a toll free number.